

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21671

In Section 21-101(b), Idaho Code, we propose to amend the definition of "Aircraft" to clarify its use in Title 21. In Section 21-114, we propose to move the coordination over aerial search operations to a more suitable location in Section 21-104.

Section 21-114, Idaho Code, outlines the requirement to register pilots, which we are proposing to eliminate. These registration fees are designated in the statute to fund expenses relating to the search for down or missing aircraft and for pilot safety programs.

The Idaho pilot registration fee is \$6 per year (\$12 for two years). This fee has not increased since 1990, so current revenue does not cover even the cost of pilot safety training which has stalled our volunteer search pilot network. The existing statute requires pilot registration but provides no enforcement mechanism. Given the challenges and limitations associated with pilot registration, we propose eliminating this statutory requirement and shifting our focus to aircraft registration.

The revenue reduction resulting from the elimination of pilot registration could be offset by the approval of the proposed aircraft registration increase which is in a separate legislative proposal.

Additional changes to Section 21-114 address housekeeping issues, primarily relating to aircraft. The statute requires registration of airworthy aircraft in lieu of personal property tax, exemptions to aircraft registering in the second half of the registration year, and extending an exemption to aircraft involved in interstate commerce.

FISCAL NOTE

Pilots presently pay \$6 per year (\$12 for two years). The loss of this revenue would be approximately \$13,500 annually.

There is no fiscal impact if this bill fails.

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